



COOP News

Volume 4

Issue 2



Pointers for Measuring Snow...

You can clearly feel fall in the air and while most of us enjoy the turning of the leaves and the cooler weather, lest we forget it is just a precursor to winter. That being the case, we thought this would be a great time to refresh everyone's memory on how to measure the wintry precipitation. If you do not have a snow stick or snow board, let Jeff or Tabitha know and they will get one out to you. Here are some pointers:

1. Keep in mind that you need to remove your funnel and inner tube portion of the rain gauge in the winter to better accumulate snow in the gauge and also to keep the inner tube from freezing and cracking.
2. Snow Depth is the combined total depth of both the old and new snow on the ground. It is reported to the nearest inch. For instance, if you measure a half inch to an inch of snow, it would be reported as an inch, however, if you measure less than a half inch of snow, it would be reported as a Trace or "T".
3. Snow Fall is the amount of new snow that has fallen in the last 24 hours (since your last observation). It is reported to the nearest tenth of an inch.
4. If snow has fallen in the last 24 hours, but there is no accumulation on the ground when you do your observation, you would report a Trace or "T" of snowfall for the last 24 hours.
5. If you have snow drifts and snow depth is uneven...take your measurement from a location that is more representative of the actual amount of snow depth for your observation.

Here is a very informative presentation about measuring wintry precipitation put together by NWS Chanhassen, Minnesota:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/mpx/Coop/WinterWeatherTraining.pdf>



Did you know there is a national cooperative observer newsletter. You can view the newsletter at this address:

www.nws.gov/om/coop/coop_newsletter.htm

Changing Time on The Nimbus



Autumn has arrived once again, and along with the season, comes the time change. Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday in November, which will occur on November 2nd this year. This being the case, those of you whom have a Nimbus MAX/MIN Temperature display will need to move your time back an hour on Sunday, November 2nd, after you have taken your daily observation.

The procedure for resetting the time on the Nimbus is as follows:

1. Hold down the **Max/Min Recall** button for about 2 seconds, simultaneously flipping the **memory toggle switch** to the **On** position at the same time. The screen will momentarily be blank, but will then display E3E.3, signaling successful entering of the "Time Mode". When this occurs, release the Max/Min Recall button and the current time (as known by the instrument) will be displayed.
3. Setting the clock involves pushing various buttons/switches. The buttons change the unit's time in the following increments:
 - A. **Max/Min Recall** — Increases the hour in increments of one.
 - B. **Max/Min Clear** — Increases the minutes in increments of ten.
 - C. **Memory Read** — Increases the minutes in increments of one.

The time of your observation should be 00:00 (indicating midnight). If you take your observation at 7 am, then your box, at 7 am, should display 00:00. If you take your observation at 8 am, then your box, at 8 am, should display 00:00 as the time. Basically, on the 3rd of November, at your observation time, the clock on the Nimbus will read 01:00 due to the time change. You will want to push the **Max/Min Recall** button 23 times, or until 00:00 is displayed to reset your time.

4. Once the time has been reset, flip the **Memory switch** back to the **Off** position and the new time takes effect.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Carico or Tabitha Brewer and one of us will gladly walk you through the process.

Visit us on the web at:
www.weather.gov/jacksonky

SKYWARN® Winter Spotter Training

When: Thursday, October 23rd

Time: 7 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Location: Hal Rogers Regional Fire Training Facility

180 Oak Leaf Lane

Somerset, KY 42503

Description: A National Weather Service Meteorologist will teach a 1.5 hour winter weather spotter training class. Class participants will learn facts and information about winter weather events in Kentucky, how to stay safe in winter weather, and how to assist the National Weather Service by reporting significant winter weather. The class will also include information on squall line thunderstorms which can produce damaging winds and tornadoes, even in the winter.

Weather Joke

It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a new Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared. But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked,

"Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again.

"Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again.

"Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy!"

Know Winter Terminology

Use the list of words below to match terms up with their definition:

Blowing Snow	Winter Storm Watch	Snow Flurries	Snow Depth
Blizzard Warning	Freezing Rain	Wind Chill Advisory	Sleet
Winter Storm Warning	Snow Showers	Snow Squalls	Snowfall
Winter Storm Outlook	Winter Weather Advisories	Wind Chill Warning	

_____ : Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. These are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

_____ : Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. These are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

_____ : Issued prior to a Winter Storm Watch. This is issued when forecasters believe winter storm conditions are possible and are usually issued 3 to 5 days in advance of a winter storm.

_____ : Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below $\frac{1}{4}$ mile; these conditions should persist for at least three hours.

_____ : Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.

_____ : Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.

_____ : Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

_____ : Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation or light dusting is all that is expected.

_____ : Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

_____ : Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant. Snow squalls are best known in the Great Lakes region.

_____ : Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility and causes significant drifting. Blowing snow may be snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

_____ : Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

_____ : Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.

_____ : The combined total depth of both the old and new snow on the ground since your last observation.

_____ : The accumulation of new snow that has fallen since your last observation.

2014 Cooperative Observer Length of Service (LOS) Awards

The National Weather Service Office in Jackson would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate cooperative observers who are receiving Length of Service Awards this year.

Individual Length of Service (LOS) Awards:

1. Esther Childress — Feds Creek 1SE — 50 Year
2. Rudy Young — Stearns 2S — 35 Year
3. Gary Carmichael — Clay City 1WNW — 30 Year
4. Susan Conley — Paintsville 1E — 30 Year
5. Eula Skidmore — Slade 5NE — 30 Year
6. Eddie Plummer — Flemingsburg 2N — 25 Year
7. Ken Lewis — Booneville 12 SW — 15 Year
8. Ryan Adams — Jeremiah 1S — 10 Year

Institution Length of Service (LOS) Awards:

1. Barbourville Water Plant — 30 year LOS



Reminders and Tips

1. If you enter your observation in Wxcoder, please have the observation entered by 9:30 a.m. We use the data you submit to produce a morning Regional Temperature and Precipitation Summary (RTP) that is displayed on our web page. This report must be generated before 10 a.m.
2. If you are going out of town, please try to notify us ahead of time. Our email addresses are: jeffrey.carico@noaa.gov and tabitha.brewer@noaa.gov, or call us.
3. Let us know ASAP if you are experiencing problems with your temperature equipment. Some errors we can help you correct when you call, others may require a home visit.
4. If you miss taking an observation and you have the NIMBUS max/min box, you can call us and we can step you back through to get the max, min and at observation temps.
5. If your box is displaying -99.9, that generally means there has been a loss of power to the box. In this instance, check to see that the box is plugged in. If the box is plugged in, then gently push in on the plug in the back of the box to ensure it is making connection. If -99.9 still displays, unplug your box, then plug it back in. If all of the above fails to clear the -99.9, call and let us know. A home visit may be required.
6. If your box is displaying an "L", that means the back-up battery needs to be replaced.
7. Remember to enter zeroes in the snowfall and snow depth columns on your B91s as well as entering them into Wxcoder. This gets you ready for the winter season and becomes a habit. It is also important that the columns on your B91 are all filled in, even if no precipitation has occurred.
8. It is the time of year to start scheduling routine visits, so don't be surprised if you get a phone call from a staff member of the Jackson NWS Office to set up a time to visit.
9. If you are a Fisher Porter site, please get those cards mailed out to us by the 15th of the month.

